#### DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 076 179

JC 730 102

FORM ASIO

AUTHOR TITLE

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An Investigation to Determine the Possibilities of More Effective Counseling and Placement of Community College Students Through Systematic Match of Reading

Ability to Reading Requirements of College

Courses.

INSTITUTION PUB DATE

Rockland Community Coll., Suffern, N.Y.

Jan 72

NOTE

46p.; An NDEA Title V-A Project, Code No.

70-027-010

EDRS PRICE

MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29

**DESCRIPTORS** 

College Curriculum; \*College Students; \*Community Colleges; Post Secondary Education; \*Reading Ability; \*Reading Tests; Statistical Data; \*Student Placement;

Student Testing; Test Results

IDENTIFIERS

Nelson Denny Reading Test; New York; \*Rockland

Community College

#### ABSTRACT

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To determine if student placement in community colleges' programs of study and courses could be improved if objective information relating to the reading requirements of each course were related to the student's measured reading ability, an investigation was carried out at Rockland Community College. The Nelson-Denny Reading Test was administered to 1,000 students enrolled in the Day Division of the college. The reading test results were computer tabulated, and scores were obtained for each student as to reading rate, vocabulary, comprehension, and total scores. The total score was found to be the most useful, representing an adequately weighted combination of the students' performance on the vocabulary and comprehension subtests. The findings of the study are tabulated and discussed as to the following: (1) high schools from which students graduated, (2) age and sex of participating students, (3) attendance at other colleges prior to enrollment at Rockland Community College, (4) enrollment status at the college, (5) distribution of students in various courses by number and percentages, (6) distribution of reading rate, vocabulary, comprehension, and total reading scores in grade equivalents, (7) distribution of readibility scores of textbooks used in various courses, (8) percentages of students below readability scores of texts assigned in various individual courses, and (9) analysis of total reading and readability scores in courses enrolling large numbers of students. The study data are provided in 14 tables. A short questionnaire used to obtain student information, a list of courses offered, and a sheet for recording reading test scores are provided in an appendix. (DB)

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AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF MORE EFFECTIVE COUNSELING AND PLACEMENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS THROUGH SYSTEMATIC MATCH OF READING ABILITY TO READING REQUIREMENTS OF COLLEGE COURSES.

(An HDEA Title V-A Project Code No. 70-C27-010)

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January 1972

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

One of the major responsibilities of academic advisors and counseling personnel is to assist students select programs of study and courses which meet their interests and effer them reasonable probability of success. That students are often unrealistic and uninformed in these matters is well recognized. Ill advised choices of curricula and courses increase probabilities of failure. It is important that students obtain effective counseling in this area, especially at community colleges with open admissions policies.

The Office of the Dean of Students at Rockland Community College, in cooperation with the Office of Institutional Research, believed that a major improvement in the placement of students in programs of study and courses might be accomplished if objective information regarding the reading requirements of each course were related systematically to the individual student's measured reading ability. This belief was based on the assumption that an important factor contributing to student success is his ability to understand the textbooks and other reading materials assigned to him by his instructors. Even when highly motivated, students will not learn effectively materials they are unable to read with comprehension. Unfortunately, textbooks and other readings are usually selected without sufficient attention paid to the reading abilities of the students enrolled in the courses. If the instructor has information regarding the reading proficiency of his students, he typically has no idea of the specific reading difficulty (readability) of the materials he or his department assigns. Publishers seldom tell enough.

Research has documented the tremendous variability among community college students. A range in reading ability of ten or more grade levels, from grade four or five for some students to beyond grades sixteen for the

brighter academic students, has been reported.

#### II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the investigation were:

- 1. To determine the readability of textbooks and other required readings assigned students enrolled in Rockland Community College by the means of a reliable and valid readability formula.
- 2. To determine the reading ability of a representative sample of students enrolled in the various curriculums and courses in the College.
- 3. To determine the relationship between readability and reading ability.
- 4. To disseminate the results of the investigation among the faculty and administrative staff of the College as well as units of the State University of New York system.

Systematic dissemination, interpretation, and consultation regarding the research findings can be expected to make a significant contribution to the Improvement of the College's instructional program. Also, since many student characteristics are similar and the same instructional materials used widely among SUNY colleges, the methodology and results of the study may have rather wide application.

The findings should also be useful to personnel concerned with the development and conduct of College developmental and remedial reading programs. Objective information will be made available, based upon actual course demands.



#### III. RELATED LITERATURE

#### A. READABILITY FORMULAS

A review of the literature on readability reveals a spate of studies during the 1920-1950's. During this period, Chall (1958) stated, "the search for objective means of predicting readability or reading difficulty was prompted by three major purposes: first, to discover the factors which validly distinguish easy from hard material; second, to find a reliable means of measuring these factors; third, to formulate an expression of some combination of these factors in terms of the reading skill required to read and understand the material."

During the fifties and sixties, efforts were directed mainly, although not exclusively, at the refinement and simplification of already existing formulas. Most readability formulas represented different approaches to the use of two factors: vocabulary load and sentence length (Martin-1961). Research workers or others interested in this field could choose among some 30 formulas or their variations (Klare-1963). Klare recommended the use of the Dale-Chall formula (1948) as being the most consistently accurate though recognizing that it was a time consuming method. An opinion shared by many authorities.

Despite their promise, the application of readability formulas, has been limited. Major and Collettee (1961), concerned with science books (biology), reported that readability studies had been directed mainly toward the elementary and secondary levels of education. More generally, Beldon and Lee (1961) noted that



committees, administrators, and teachers responsible for the selection of textbooks often consider the author's qualifications, the book's organization, contents, presentation, etc., but seldom avail themselves (assuming availability) of specific information concerning the reading difficulty of these materials. A search for more recent studies revealed a paucity of related studies at the College - level, and particularly of studies conducted in community college settings.

More recently, Fry (1968) noted that readability formulas are used by some teachers, some librarians, and some publishers, but that their number is all too few. He suggests that the sheer time required for applying these formulas causes them "to languish in term papers and occasional magazine articles." He presented a Readability Graph, adopted for use in the present study, whose simplicity and speed of working are in sharp contrast to some existing formulas. It correlates highly (.93 or better) with the Dale/Chall, SRA, Flesch, and Spache formulas, all widely used and recognized for their reliability and validity.

However, certain limitations in readability formulas should be noted. Wall (1969), dealing with readability in secondary text-book selection, concluded that these formulas tend to underestimate reading proficiency. Pauk (1969) stated that readability formulas fail to take into full account the abstractness of the reading selections, the complexity of the sentences, and the students' level of reasoning abilities. In agreement with these two authorities, the Research Director, believes that the obtained "gaps"

found in the present study between reading ability and readability should be regarded as "conservative" estimates of the "true" differences. Also, determinations of the readability of mathematics, poetry, and for obvious reasons, foreign language texts by the Fry formula was not considered advisable. The application of the formula to philosophy texts might also be questioned, though they were included in the results.

#### B. READING ABILITY

In the overview of "Measurement and Evaluation in Junior College Reading Programs", (ERIC Junior College Research Review October 1971), published by the American Association of Junior Colleges, it was noted that over half of all junior colleges, require students who score below some pre-determined percentile on entrance examinations to take appropriate remedial work in reading, mathematics, etc. The pre-determined cut-off scores varied among colleges, usually falling somewhere in the bottom quartile. However, since other criteria for admission and placement were used, e.g., rank-in-high-school class, high school-GPA's etc. there was no assurance that the poor reader will be assigned to a remedial or developmental reading class, assuming there is such a class available. There also seemed to have been no attempts generally to place students in classes and courses that are consistent with their measured reading ability where chances for success are reasonable.

In this same issue, the Nelson-Denny Reading Test, used in the present investigation, was described as being among the four reading tests most often selected by Junior College teachers.



#### IV. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The following steps were accomplished:

- A. Review of published literature related to reading and readability.
- B. Consultation with Dr. Edward Fry, Professor and Director of Reading Center, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, regarding the selection of a reliable and valid reading test and a readability formula. The final decision was made by the project Research Director to use the Nelson-Denny Reading Test and Dr. Fry's Method for Estimating Readability.

A number of valuable suggestions related to sampling procedures, use of grade levels, and analysis of data, etc. were made by Dr. Fry.

C. Determination of Readability of Textbooks and Readings

The readability of all textbooks currently being used during the Fall 1969 and Spring 1970 semesters at Rockland Community College was determined by means of the Fry readability formula. Certain deletions were considered advisable, -- mainly mathematics, poetry, and foreign language textbooks and readings.

In all, readability by grade levels was determined for a total of 193 textbooks, ranging from one art book to 40 history books. The complete list of books, classified by course, author, title, publisher, readability grade-level scores, and "extrapolated" readability scores are to be found in the Appendix. The Fry graphic method used to determine the readability grade level scores does not yield

the 12th grade were characterized as "college" which roughly corresponds to grades 13 and above. By inspection, many of the texts ranged significantly above this "grade 13" level. These were characterized as grades 13+ or 13++, --- a less than exact designation, but one that was believed useful for descriptive purposes.

#### D. Determination of Student Reading Ability

The Nelson-Denny Reading Test was administered to 1,000 students enrolled in the Day Division of Rockland Community College. They represent about 40% of the total of 2,500 full and part-time and Foundation Program students enrolled in the College during the academic year 1969-70. However, no Full Foundation Program students were tested as part of this project. Their reading ability status had been already diagnosed and they were enrolled in a program of remediation.

The selection of the specific classes for testing was based upon the following considerations:

- that the sample of students tested should reflect the distribution of freshmen (less than 28 earned credits and of sophomores (28 or more earned credits) in the College.
- that the distribution of introductory and "upperlevel" courses reflect the current offerings of the College.



As will be demonstrated, the data reflects that these two considerations were adequately met. The results are believed to adequately represent the reading achievement level of the student body.

It should be noted that most students had completed the State University Regents Scholarship Examination as a requirement for College admissions. However, some of these incoming students who were not recent high school graduates also completed the State University Admission Examination. While in high school most students also completed numerous other tests, --- SAT's, ACT's, District Reading Tests, placement examinations, etc. Some students were not enthusiastic about taking the Neison-Denny and resented what to them was a stress and anxiety provoking exam. Too, classes had already started and the interruption of class routines and plans were resisted by some few faculty and students. However, the Student Personnel Counselors administering the tests believed that these factors were dealt with adequately and that the overwhelming majority of students participated cooperatively and did their best. The results are believed to be a veridical representation of the "State of the College" at the time.

During the same reading testing period, students were asked to fill out a short questionnaire which requested: social security number, name, high school from which the student graduated, age last birthday, sex, prior college attendance, whether full or part-time student, number of credits earned.

and courses in which enrolled. (a special check list)

A copy of the questionnaire and check-list are to be

found in the Appendix of this report.

#### E. Tabulation of the Data

The results of the reading tests were computer tabluated and the following scores were obtained for each student:

1. reading rate; 2. vocabulary; 3. comprehension; and

4. total scores. These scores were converted into grade-equivalents based on national norms supplied by the test authors. Summary tabulations of these four scores are to be found in the Appendix.

For the purpose of this study, the total score was the most useful, since it represents an adequately weighted combination of the students' performance on the vocabulary and comprehension sub-tests. Specific omparisons of reading total scores and the readability of the texts are to be found in the results section of the study.

Separate print-outs and summary tables providing frequency and percentages answering various items in the short questionnaire filled out by the students were also prepared and are to be found in the Appendix.

#### V. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

In this section of the report the following findings are discussed:

1) high schools from which students graduated; 2) age and sex of participating students; 3) attendance at other colleges prior to enrollment at Rockland Community College; 4) status at RCC -- freshman and sophomore;



- 5) distribution of students in various courses by number and percentages;
- 6) distribution of reading rate, vocabulary, comprehension, and total reading scores in grade equivalents; 7) distribution of readability scores of textbooks used in various courses; 8) percentages of students reading below readability scores of the texts assigned in various individual courses; and, 9) analysis of total reading and readability scores in courses enrolling large numbers of students.

#### A. High Schools From Which Students Graduated (See Table 1)

About 69% of the 990 students participating in the study were graduates of Rockland County high schools. Of this 69%, about 6% were graduates of private county high schools. Of the remainder of the 990 students, 28% were from out-of-county high schools. Twenty-three students or 2.3% received high school equivalency diplomas. The sample was generally representative of the total college enrollment.

#### B. Age of Students At Their Last Birthday (See Table 2)

The students ranged from under 18 years to over 50 years

Less than .3%, however, were over 50 years. By contrast, 77% were

20 years or less. The median age at their last birthday was 19 years.

#### C. Sex of Students (See Table 3)

The sexes were evenly divided -- 50% male, 48% female, and 2% gave no answer. The distribution of the college population was 51% male, and 49% female.

D. Attendance At College Prior to Enrollment in Rockland Community

College (See Table 4)

About 15% of the students had taken work at another college



prior to enrolling in RCC. Data was not readily available regarding whether or not these students had experienced academic difficultles at this prior institution, but on basis of earlier studies of students, this could have been the case for a significant number of the participants.

#### E. Number of Credits Carried -- (See Table 5)

About 92% of the students carried 12 or more credits at the time of the study. This, by definition, would make them full-time students. About 8% carried less than 12 credits, making them part-time students. According to college records, the full time enrollment was approximately 80%. Thus, there were about 10% more full-time students in the sample.

#### F. Credits Completed Prior to Present Semester (See Table 6)

Slightly over two-thirds of the students (68%) had completed less than 28 credits prior to the semester in which the testing was conducted. This would make them freshmen.

About 32% had completed 28 or more credits and had achieved sophomore status. This "mix" reflected that found in the College during the day session.

# G. Numbers and Percentages of Students Enrolled in Each Course (See Table 7)

Excluding mathematics, physical education, and foreign language courses, 86 different courses were listed as offerings by the College. However, in 24 of these courses, none of the 990 students in the sample were enrolled since these courses were not offered in the Fall Semester. With exception of 2,



all of these 24 courses were 200 level, that is, relatively advanced and/or with prerequisites.

The readability (difficulty) of texts assigned in these 24 "empty" courses is discussed later in the report.

The numbers of the sample of 990 RCC students enrolled in the various courses actually offered extended over a very wide range, from a low of 2 to a high of 552. In order of rank frequency, the 10 courses with the highest enrollments included: 1) English 101 (552); 2) Psychology 101 (237);

3) History 101 (164); 4) Biology 105 (159); 5) Sociology 201 (139); 6) Health 101 (134); 7) English 203 (121); 8) Husic 101 (100); 9) Economics 101 (66); and 10) Speech 101 (61).

These receive special attention in the discussions that follow.

#### H. Reading Rate-of-Students (See Table 8)

Though the focus of the study was not specifically directed to the reading rate of the students, it can be noted that over half (52%) of the sample scored below the 13th grade (college level). Also, about 25% scored below the 10th grade. More gratifying was the finding that 42% of the sample scored above the 14th grade.

Programs designed to increase speed of reading might prove productive for a significant number of students. The rapid reader has a considerable advantage, especially in the social sciences.

NOTE: Reading rate is not used in the determination of the total reading score.



#### . Vocabulary Scores of Students (See Table 9)

The difficulty of the material a student can read is directly related to the number of words he knows. Vocabulary is, obviously, a major factor bearing on the reading process.

On the vocabulary portion of the Nelson-Denny about 57% of the students scored at the 13th grade and above. The range of vocabulary scores extended from below the 7th grade to above the 14th grade. Though nearly 5% of the students scored below the 10th grade, the largest single group of below-level vocabulary scores (25%) was found in the 12.0 - 12.9 bracket. As will be noted below, comprehension scores revealed much more scatter along the lower levels.

#### J. Reading Comprehension Scores of Students (See Table 10)

The reader's level of comprehension is an all important factor in determining whether the text materials will be adequately understood. The analysis of the students' reading comprehension scores reveals that only slightly over a half (53%) were reading at the grade 13.0 or higher (college) level. The remainder of the scores scattered down to the below 7th grade level, with 13% reading below the 10th grade level and slightly more than a third (34%) reading below the 12th grade.



#### K. Reading Total Scores of Students (See Table 11)

Analysis of the total reading scores of the students, buttressed by a relatively high vocabulary score component, revealed that about 57% of the students were reading at grade 13 or higher level. About 43% were below the 13th grade (college level), 22% below the 12th grade level and 7% below the 10th grade level. Seven percent, though a relatively low percentage, could mean an estimated 168 students in this study, and 238 in the Fall 1971 enrollment.

L. Readability Scores of Assigned Texts and Their Relationship
to Total Reading Scores of Students (See Tables 12-14)

The readability scores of assigned texts extended over a wide range of grade equivalents, -- from the 7th grade to substantially over the 12th grade. The Fry formula specifies grade equivalents scores above the 12th grade as "College".

The median readability score for the 193 texts analyzed was located in the 12.0 - 12.9 grade level bracket. About 44% of the texts were more difficult and scored in the "college" level bracket. Significantly, of the 109 books that were "college-level", 48% scored in the extrapolated 13++ category. What this means in "grade-equivalents" is not exactly determinable, but these were scores whose coordinates were at the extreme end of the Fry graph.

Recapitulating, the median total reading score of the 990 students was somewhat higher than the median



readability score of the texts assigned to them in their courses, -- grade 13 or higher vs - grade 12.0 - 12.9, respectively.

As noted in Section G above, a total of 86 courses were listed as offerings; 193 books were listed as required reading. However, only in 62 of the 86 courses were one or more students in the sample enrolled. Also, for a particular course, the number of books assigned ranged from 1 to 17; the numbers of students in the sample ranged from 2 to 552. Since the number of students enrolled in a particular course varied so greatly, the relationship between reading scores and readability of texts assigned should be systematically examined in this light.

In Table 13, a comprehensive summary table, information is supplied which shows courses offered, texts assigned to these courses, readability scores of each text, number of students enrolled in each course, the percentage of students enrolled in each course whose total readability score was below and above the readability score of the text(s) assigned to each course, the percentage of the total sample of 990 students whose reading scores would have been above and below the readability score of each assigned text, and where applicable an extrapolated readability score ranging to an upward limit of 13++ for each book. Examination of the data should provide the reader with a "feel" for the discrepancy that presently exists between students' reading ability and readability of materials assigned.



produces harm is accepted, than it follows that the damage should be greater in more heavily enrolled courses. However, the implications of a poor match must be considered case by case by academic advisors and counselors. This is a recommended approach for more effective counseling and advisement of the individual student.

Examples of the match of reading ability and readability in the heavily enrolled courses are provided below:

In English 101 there were 552 of the 990 students enrolled. A total of 16 books with readability scores ranging from grades 7 to 13+ were assigned. The percentage of students enrolled with reading scores below that of the 16 texts ranged from 0 to 49%. For the entire sample of students, the range could be projected as ranging from 2 to 70%.

In Psychology 101, with an enrollment of 237 students, there were 6 books assigned, with readability scores ranging from grades 7 to 13+. The percentage of students with reading scores below that of each of the 6 texts ranged from 0 to 51%. For the entire sample of students, the range could have been from 1 to 70%.

In History 101, with an enrollment of 164 students, there were 7 books with readability scores ranging from grades 9 to 13+. The percentages of students with reading scores below that of each of the 7 books ranged from 10 to 39%. For the entire sample, the range could have been from 3 to 70%. These three



examples point up the sharp discrepancy between reading ability and readability.

Table 14 provides information regarding the range of readability scores in courses where more than one text was assigned. Overall, the range of readability scores extended from 7 to 13+ years. Within a particular course, the range of readability scores for multiple assigned texts was as much as 6+ years. Stated simply, in these courses a student could have been assigned both a very easy and a very difficult text. Do students learn some things and not others? Obviously. However, are assignments and tests more heavily weighted towards the easier or more difficult text content? Does an instructor's marking 'on a curve' effectively obscure the fact that certain materials were not or could not be learned by significant percentages of the classes' enrollments? One can only speculate on these matters. Certainly there can be agreement that the range of difficulty of multiple texts assigned in a course should not exceed the reading ability of the students enrolled.

Whether, overall, more students enrolled in 200 than in 100 level courses had reading scores below the readability scores of the assigned texts is not readily answerable. The number of students enrolled and the number of textbooks assigned varied so greatly in the individual courses. Parenthetically, many of the 200 level courses were not "advanced" courses.

The most practical use of the data reported in the summary table 13 would be the systematic comparison of the individual



student's total reading score with the reading requirements of the courses he intends to enroll in. He should be counselled accordingly. An improvement of student counseling was, of course, the major objective of this study!

## VI. SPECIFIC ACTIONS PLANNED AS A RESULT OF THE FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY

A copy of this report will be sent to members of the college administrative staff, including the president, deans, departmental chairmen, and faculty members. Upon consensus that the findings are significant and that further action is merited, the following steps are planned:

- 1. The list of books, readability scores, percentages of students reading above and below the readability score, etc. will be reviewed by the departments. As a result it is anticipated that some changes will be made in the texts selected for use. The Student Personnel Office will provide necessary consultation and technical advice in the determination of suitable alternative texts.
- 2. If it appears that the only books available or recommended are too difficult for some or most of the students enrolling in the courses, consideration will be given to changing the prerequisites for enrolling in that course.
- 3. In the interim period and afterwards, appropriate charts will be prepared for students, counselors, and teachers which will enable the student and staff to gauge more objectively the potential difficulty of the course. Adoption of such a procedure should enhance cooperation between the Student Personnel Office



- and the teaching faculty.
- 4. Since more than fifty percent of the students were reading at a rate below college level, voluntary speed reading minicourses will be offered at convenient times.
- 5. A more systematic method of identifying students with reading problems who were not placed in the Foundation Program will be established. Such students will be encouraged to enroll in reading tutorial programs similar to those presently conducted.
- 6. Summaries of the present report will be sent to all SUNY twoyear colleges. They will also be sent suitable lists of text readability scores.
- 7. The Central SUNY Administrative Staff will be requested to write all publishers to encourage, perhaps insist, that they supply the colleges with more adequate readability data regarding their books.
- 8. With wider acceptance of open admissions policies among community colleges of the State of New-York, all possible steps must be taken to assure that the greatest numbers of students achieve success in their venture into higher education. This study, hopefully, contributes to this objective.

TABLE #1

HIGH SCHOOL FROM WHICH STUDENT GRADUATED

HIGH SCHOOL	NO. OF GRADUATES	PERCENT TOTAL
CL'ARKSTOWN	82	8.3
NANUET	50	5.1
NORTH ROCKLAND (HAVERSTRAW)	63	6.4
NYACK	31	3.1
PEARL RIVER	60	6.1
RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOL	116	11.7
SPRING VALLEY	106	10.7
SUFFERN	59	5.9
TAPPAN ZEE (ORANGEBURG)	62	6.3
ALBERTUS MAGNUS	39	3.9
HOLY CHILD	1	.1
ROSARY ACADEMY	14	1.4
OUR LADY OF VICTORY	2	.2
ROCKLAND COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL	<b>2</b>	2
H.S. NOT ROCKLAND COUNTY	274	27.7
H.S. EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA	23	2.3
NOT HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATE	<u>6</u> 990	. <u>6</u> 100.0

TABLE #2

# AGE LAST BIRTHDAY

	NO.	PERCENT OF TOTAL
AGE	- inmo	
UNDER 18	. 94	9.5
18	357	36.1
19	234	23.6
20	76	7.7
2125	99	10.0
2630	36	3.6
3140	57	5.8
4150	30	3.0
5160	3	.3
OVER -60		.0
NO ANSWER	4	100.0
	<del>990</del>	100.0

TABLE #3

### SEX OF STUDENTS

	NO.	PERCENT OF TOTAL
MALE	492	49.7
FEMALE	478	48.3
NO ANSWER	20	2.0
	990	100.0

TABLE #4

# ATTENDANCE ANOTHER COLLEGE PRIOR TO ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

	NO.	PERCENT OF TOTAL
YES	147	14.8 -
NO	838	84.6
NO ANSWER	5	.5
	990	99.9

#### TABLE #5

#### CREDITS CARRIED

	_ <u>NO.</u>	PERCENT OF TOTAL
12 OR MORE (FT)	915	92.4
LESS THAN 12 (PT)	74	7.5
NO ANSWER	1	.1
	990	100.00

TABLE #6

CREDITS COMPLETED PRIOR TO PRESENT SEMESTER,

AT R.C.C. AND/OR OTHER COLLEGES

	NO.	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Freshman (Less than 28)	670	67.7
Sophomore (28 or more)	313	31.6
No Answer	7	.7
	990	100.0

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF 990 STUDENTS IN TOTAL SAMPLE ENROLLED IN EACH COURSE

COURSE NO.	NO. ENROLLED	PERCENT OF 990
AC 101	57	5.7
AC 102	<b>15</b> ,	1.5
AC 201	7	.7
AN 201	26	2.6
AR 101	55	5.5
Bi 105	159	16.0
B1 106	- · · · 27	
BI 201	· <b>30</b>	3.0
BI 207	47	4.7
BU 101	30	3.0
BU 105 -	6	.6
BU 201	36	3.6
BU 202	8	.8
BU 203	57	5.7

#### table #7 (continued)

COURSE NO.	NO. ENROLLED	PERCENT OF 990
BU 204	42	4.2
BU 210	3	.3
BU 214	6	.6
BU 217	2	.2
CH 101	41	4.1
EC 101	66	6.6
EC 201	27	2.7
EC 202	8	.8
ER 101	9	.9
EN 101	552	55.7
EN 102	38	3.8
EN 201	77	7.7
EN 202	15	1.5
EN 203	_ 121	12.2
EN 204	10	1.0
EN 205	31	3.1
GO 201	27	2.7
HE 101	134	13.5
HI 101	164	16.5
HI 102	25	2.5
HI 202	10	1.0
HI 203	9	.9
HI 205	. 8	.8
H1 209	3	•3

# table #7 (continued)

COURSE NO.	NO. ENROLLED	PERCENT OF 990
HS 101	31	3.1
HS 160	3	.3
HS 170	ī	.1
MU 101	100	10.1
NU 101	32	3.2
NU 201	60	6.0
NU 203	57	5.7
PI 201	21	2.1
PI 202	7	.7
PH 101	10	1.0
PH 103	14	1.4
PL 110	3	.3
PL 103	18 _	1.8
PL 203	• 11	1.1
PL 207	27	2.7
PO 101	. 60	6.0
P0 102	11	- 1.1
PO 201	5	.5
PS 101	237	23.9
PS 102	8	
PS 201	31	3.1
PS 203	37	3.7
P\$ 205	23	2.3
PS 206	6	.6
SC VOI	51	5.1

table #7 (continued)

COURSE NO.	NO. ENROLLED	PERCENT OF 990
SC 102	33	3.3
SO 201	139	14.0
so 203	19	1 <b>.9</b> .
so 205	12	1.2
SH 101	· 61	. 6.1

TABLE #8

READING RATE - NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS

AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE EQUIVALENTS	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE
Below 7.0	•	.0
7.0 7.9	76	<b>7.7</b>
8.0 8.9	90	9.0
9.0 9.9	85	8.6
10.0 10.9	74	7.5
11.0 11.9	76	7.7
12.0 12.9	70	7.1
13.0 13.9	56	5.7
Above 14.0	420	42.4
llo Answer	43	4.3
,	990	100.0

VOCABULARY - NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS

AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE
Below 7.0	6	.6
7.0 7.9	4	<b>.4</b>
8.0 8.9	7	.7
9.0 9.9	28	2.8
10.0 10.9	53	5.4
11.0 11.9	82	8.3
12.0 12.9	246	24.8
13.0 13.9	306	30.9
Above 14.0	258	26.1
No Answer		.0
	990	100.0

#### TABLE #10

# READING COMPREHENSION NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GRADE LEVEL

GRADE	LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE
Below	7.0	13	1.3
7.0	7.9	30	3.0
8.0	8.9	30	3.0
9.0	9.9	· 58	5.9
10.0	10.9	91	9.2
11.0	11.9	115	11.6



## table #10 (continued)

GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE
12.0_12.9	131	13.2
13.0 13.9	519	52.4
Above 14.0	3	.3
No Answer		.0
	990	99.9

TABLE #11

READING TOTAL SCORES

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL

GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL SAMPLE	PERCENT %below	ILE RANK % above
Below 7.0	9	· .9	- 1	99
7.0 7.9	8	.8	2	98
8.0 8.9	8	.8	3	97
9.0 9.9	40	4.0	7	93
10.0 10.9	65	6.6	13	87
11.0 11.9	90	9.1	22	78
12.0 12.9	201	20.3	43	57
13.0 13.9	274	27.7	70	30
Above 14.0	295	29.8	30	70
No Answer	-	.0		
	990	100.0		

TABLE #12

COMPARISON OF THE NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF 193 TEXTS AND 990 STUDENTS

AT VARIOUS READABILITY AND TOTAL READING SCORE GRADE EQUIVALENT LEVELS

GRADE EQUIVALENT	READABIL NUMBER	PERCENT	TOTAL READING	SCORES STUDENTS PERCENT
Below 7.0	0	0	9 .	.9
7.0 7.9	4	2.0	8	.8
8.0 8.9	3	1.5	8	.8
9.0 9.9	19	9.8	40	4.0
10.0 10.9	11	5.6	65	6.6
11.0 11.9	25	12.9	90	<b>9.1</b> .
12.0 12.9	22	11.3	201	20.3
13.0 and above	109	56.9	569	57.5
TOTAL	193	100.0	990	100.0

Median Readability of Text - located in 13th grade and above interval Median Reading Total Score - located in the 12.0 - 12.9th grade interval



TABLE #13

SUMBLARY TABLE OF COURSES, TEXTBOOKS ASSIGNED, HUMBLAS OF STUDENTS CHAOLLED IN EACH COURSE, READABILITY SCORE OF EACH TEXT, PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS EMBOLLED IN THE COURSES AND OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE WITH TOTAL READABILITY SCORES ABOVE AND BELOW THE READABILITY SCORES AND OF THE TOTAL SAMPLE WITH TOTAL READABLES.

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12 40 60 12 62 38 12 67 11 33 67 13+ 67 33	13+ 53 47 13+ 50 50 13+ 47 53 12 50 50	13+ - 70 13+ 64 36 70	159 13+ 45 55 70 3 159 13 45 55 43 5 27 13 37 63 43 5 30 11 33 67 13 8	10 31 69	26 13+ 42 58 26 10 27 73	13+ 59 42 13+ 73 27 13+ 57 43	STUDENTS ENROLLED ST 14 COURSE SA 15 COURSE SA 2 below % at or 7 2 nCAD- level above le 5 Ability level
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TABLE #14

RANGE OF READABILITY SCORES (GRADE EQUIVALENTS) IN COURSES WHERE MORE THAN ONE TEXT WAS ASSIGNED: WITHIN OR AMONG SECTIONS

COURSE	NO. OF BOOKS	RANGE-GRADE	EQUIV.
Anthropology 201	3	From-to (10-13+)	Grades 3+
Biology 105	2	(13-13+)	1+
Biology 201	2	(11-13+)	2+
Chemistry 101	<b>2</b> .	(13+-13+)	0
Chemistry 201	2	(13+-13+)	
Chemistry 203	2	(13+-13+)	
Economics 201	2	(13-13+)	1+
Economics 202	2	(13-13+)	
English 101	16	(7-13+)	6+
English 102	4	(9-13+)	4+
English 203	4	(9-11)	2
English 204	4	(7-10)	3
English 213	2	(9-9)	0
History 101	.7	(9-13+)	4+
History 102	17	(9~13+)	4+
History 202	3	(9-13+)	4+
History 203	2	(13+-13+)	0
History 205	2	(11-13+)	2+
History 209	2	(12-13+)	1+
*			

# table #14 (continued)

COURSE	NO. OF BOOKS	RANGE-GRADE	EQUIV.
		From-to	Grades
History 291	7	(9-13+)	4+
Human Services 101	6	(8-13+)	4+
Human Services 170	2	(13-13)	0
Music 101	2	(11-13)	2
Nursing 101	6	(12-13+)	1+
Nursing 203	2	(11-13+)	2+
Philosophy 201	3	(10-13)	3
Political Science 101	3	(9-13+)	4+
Political Science 102	3	(13+-13+)	0
Psychology 101	6	(7-13+)	6+
Pshchology 102	2	(12-12)	0
Psychology 203	2	(13+-13+)	0
Psychology 206	. 2	(9-13+)	4+
Sociology 101	3	(13+-13÷)	0 .
Sociology 201	5	(10-13+)	3+
Sociology 205	4	(12-13+)	1+

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#### ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE Reading--Readability Study NDEA-7A Project

NDEA-/A Project		
1.	Your Soc	ial Security Number: 123 45 6789
2.	Your Nam	le: 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 (Last Name)
		25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 (First Name) (Initial)
3.	Please C	heck The High School From Which You Graduated:
	<b>(3</b> 8a)	O Clarkstown 1 Nanuet 2 North Rockland (Haverstraw) 3 Nyack 4 Pearl River 5 Ramapo High School 6 Spring Valley 7 Suffern 8 Tappan Zee (Orangeburg) 9 Albertus Hagnus
	(39a)	O Holy Child  1 Rosary Academy  2 Our Lady of Victory  3 Rockland Country Day School  4 A high school not located in Rockland County  5 I have a high school equivalency diploma  6 I am not a high school graduate
4.	Your Age	(last birthday): 5. Sex:
i	<b>(</b> 40a <b>)</b>	0 Under 18 , cars (41a) 0 Male 1 18 1 Female 2 19 3 20 4 21-25 5 26-30 6 31-40 7 41-50 8 51-60 9 Over 60

	(42a)
	0 Yes
	1 No
<del></del>	
7.	Are you presently a full-time or a part-time student at R.C.C.?
	0 I am taking 12 or more credits (full-time) (43a)
•	1 I am taking less than 12 credits (part-time)
	Include Freshman Seminar and Physical Education in your computation
}	
8.	Prior to the present semester, check the total number of college
8 <b>.</b>	credits you have earned, including transfer credits. Do not
8 <b>.</b>	Prior to the present semester, check the total number of college credits you have earned, including transfer credits. Do not include, however, Physical Education or Freshman Seminar.
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION



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	NELSON-DENNY READING SCORES
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# Summary Shoot of Course Offerings

#### FALL 1970

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Course Course	Course Course
	Number Title
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AC 201 Inter. Acces. I	DA 102 Fund. Dent. Assi. DA 103 Oral Anatomy
ANTIROPOLOGY	•
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AN 201 Cul. Anth.	EC 101 The American EconomyPlace
ART	check under Business Offerings.
AR 101 Art. Appr.	EC 201 Fund. Eco. I-Micro
AR 102 Drawing T	EC 202 Fund. Eco.II-Macro
AR 103 Drawing TT	ENGINEERING
AR 106 Painting I	LINGTHERALING
AR 107 Painting II AR 108 Painting III	ER 101 Eng. Graphics
AR 109 Painting IV	ER 203 Statics & Strengths
AR 111 Fund, of Doctor T	•
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All 119 Art History T	EN 101 Freshman Eng. I
AR 201 Graphic Tech. I	EN 102 Freshman Eng. II
AR 202 Graphic Tech. II AR 211 Graphic Design I	EN 201 World Lit. I
AR 213 Letterforms I	EN 202 World Lit. II
AR 219 Sculpture I	EN 203 American Lit. I
	EN 204 American Lit. II
BIOLOGY	EN 205 English Lit. I
	EN 207 Adv. Comp. I
BI 105 Cen. Bio. I	EN 210 Business Eng. EN 214 Nodern Drama
BI 106 Gen. Bio. II	EN 215 Intro. to Mod. Poe.
BI 201 An. Phys. Chem.	EN 217 Intro. to Journalism
BI 207 Micro Biology BI 208 Hematology	***************
BI 298 Research Prob.	* FRENCH *
BI 299 Research Prob.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	* FR 101 Elem. French I
. BUSINESS	* FR 102 Elem. French II
•	* FR 201 Inter. French I
BU 101 Bus. Org. & Mgmt.	* FR 202 Inter. French II  * FR 205 French Conv. & Expr. *
Bus. Math	******************************
BU 105 Prin. of Retailing BU 201 Marketing	GEOGRAPHY
BU 202 Pers. Eget.	
BU 203 Business Law I	GO 201 Intro. to Geo.
BU 204 Business Law TT	***********************************
BU 207 Prin. & Prac. The	* GERUAN
BU 210 Prin. of Adv	* CP 101 P1-m C *
BU 214 Prin, of Rice, & Fin Y	* GR 101 Elem. German I  * GR 201 Inter. German I
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BU 217 Con. & Pers. Fin.	************************************
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CH 101 Inorganic Chem. I	HISTORY
CH 102 Inorganic Chem. II	•
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CH 203 Quant. Analysis	HI 102 Hist. of West. Civ. TT
	HI 201 Amer. Hist. to 1877
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	HI 202 Amer. Hist. 1877 to Pres. HI 203 Hod. Europ. Hist.
CT 101 Pmi-	li 205 Russia & Sov. Union
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IS 150 Introd to Soc. Serv.	PS 205 Adolescent Psych.
ES 151 Adv. Elect. in Soc. Serv.	PS 206 Social Psychology
IIS 160 Intro. to Recreation	PS 207 Independent Study
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* MA 205 Calculus III *	
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NOW THE	SOCIAL SCIENCE
NU 101 Fund. of Mursing	SL 101 Intro. to Soc. Sci.
NU 201 Ment. & Phys. III	
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